

CLAIMS

1. A tool for positioning a plurality of templates with respect to a curved rail having a curvature; the tool comprising:
 - 5 a flexible spine having a longitudinal direction; the flexible spine adapted to conform to the curvature of the curved rail;
 - a plurality of templates connected to the flexible spine; each of the templates defining an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the rail; and
 - 10 the templates being evenly spaced along the longitudinal direction of the flexible spine.
2. The tool of claim 1, further comprising clamp means for clamping a rail within the tool.
- 15 3. The tool of claim 2, wherein the clamp means includes a clamp aligned with each of the templates.
4. The tool of claim 3, further comprising a clamp support connected to the flexible spine and aligned with each of the clamps.
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5. The tool of claim 4, further comprising a flexible cover disposed between the clamps and the flexible spine.

6. The tool of claim 1, further comprising a clamp carried by the flexible spine;
5 the clamp adapted to hold the curved rail against the flexible spine.

7. The tool of claim 6, further comprising a clamp aligned with each of the cutting templates.

10 8. The tool of claim 7, further comprising a clamp support connected to the flexible spine and aligned with each of the clamps.

9. The tool of claim 1, further comprising a flexible cover disposed between the clamps and the flexible spine.

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10. The tool of claim 1, wherein each of the templates has angled sidewalls.

11. The tool of claim 1, wherein each of the templates is adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the curved rail.

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12. A tool for positioning a plurality of templates with respect to a curved rail having a curvature; the tool comprising:

a flexible spine having a longitudinal direction; the flexible spine adapted to conform to the curvature of the curved rail; the flexible spine having a top surface and a front surface;

a plurality of templates connected to the top surface of the flexible spine and extending over the front surface of the spine; each of the templates defining an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the rail; and

a plurality of clamps connected to the spine; each of the clamps adapted to force the rail toward the front surface of the spine.

13. The tool of claim 12, further comprising a flexible cover disposed between the clamps and the flexible spine; the clamps adapted to force the flexible cover against the rail.

14. The tool of claim 13, wherein each of the templates has angled sidewalls.

15. The tool of claim 14, wherein the templates are evenly spaced along the spine.

16. The tool of claim 12, wherein a clamp is aligned with each of the cutting templates.

17. The tool of claim 16, further comprising a clamp support connected to the
5 flexible spine and aligned with each of the clamps.

18. The tool of claim 12, wherein each of the template openings has a center; the centers of the openings being equally space from the front surface of the spine.

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19. The tool of claim 12, wherein each of the templates is adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole in the curved rail.

20. A method for forming picket holes in a curved fence rail; the method
15 comprising the steps of:

providing a tool having a flexible spine and a plurality of templates carried by the flexible spine; each of the templates having an opening adapted to guide a cutting tool to form a picket hole;

connecting the tool to the curved fence rail; and

20 cutting a picket hole in the curved fence rail at the location of each template.